and gilding, and the back lined with cloth of gold, containing the royal arms emblazoned in colours.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"This house will be 83 feet long, 46 feet wide, and 50 feet high, and will have a flat ceiling. It is proposed to be finished in the same style as the House of Lords, but with less enrichment, and less of colour and gold in its decorations. The nature of its designs, and the extent of its fittings for the accommodations required, will not admit of either painting or sculpture.

THE QUEEN'S ROBING ROOM.

"This room will be 38 feet long, 35 feet wide, and 20 feet high, and have a flat ceiling in panels, richly moulded and carved, and relieved with gold and colour. The ground of the panels of the ceiling is proposed to be of gold, covered with a diaper enrichment, and blended with legends, genealogical devices, badges, cognisances, and other heraldic insignia, and in colour.

"The wall-fittings of the room are proposed to be of oak, richly carved and moulded, and enriched with heraldic and other decorations in positive colour, relieved with gold. Compartments will be formed in the wall-framing, which might be filled with paintings referring to events in British history in which the Sovereign has personally taken a conspicuous part, or with other appropriate subjects.

THE ANTEROOM, OR GUARD-ROOM.

"This room, which adjoins the Queen's robing-room, will be 38 feet by 38 feet, and 20 feet high. The ceiling will be of oak, with characteristic decorations. Oak framing, eight feet high, with heraldic decorations, and a seat at the foot of it, will line the room. The walls are proposed to be covered with representations of battle-scenes, and pageants of English history, in which an opportunity would be afforded of displaying the warlike costumes of its several periods.

THE CONFERENCE HALL.

"This hall, which is in the centre of the front towards the river, will be 54 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 20 feet high, and will have a flat ceiling. The walls are proposed to be lined with oak framing to the height of about six feet, above which they might be covered with paintings representing celebrated state trials, and extraordinary sittings of Parliament, conferences, &c.

AS TO THE APARTMENTS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC USES OF EACH HOUSE.

"These rooms consist of libraries, refreshment rooms, robing rooms, state officers' rooms, and committee rooms.

"Nine rooms are appropriated to libraries, six of which are fifty feet long, and 28 feet wide; two are 33 feet long, and 28 feet wide; and one is 32 feet long, and 23 feet wide. The refreshment rooms are four in number, of which one is 60 feet long and 18 feet wide; two of which are 28 feet long and 18 feet wide; and one is 34 feet long and 18 feet wide. The robing rooms for the archbishops and bishops are three in number, of the respective sizes of 30 feet by 20 feet, 20 feet square and 16 feet square. The robing and other rooms for state officers are seventeen in number, averaging in size about 24 feet by 18 feet. The committee rooms are thirty-five in number. On the principal floor, five of them will be 37 feet long by 28 feet wide; two 35 feet by 26 feet; and one 32 feet by 23 feet. On the one-pair floor, two will be 42 feet long and 33 feet wide; one 54 feet by 28 feet; four 36 feet by 28 feet; ten 34 feet by 28 feet; and two 34 feet by 22 feet; and on the two-pair floor the number will be eight, averaging in size 28 feet by 20 feet. The whole of these rooms are about 20 feet in height, with the exception of those on the two-pair floor, which will be about 14 feet high, and will be lighted by windows of the usual height from the floor.

"The ceilings will be flat and formed into panels by moulded and carved ribs, relieved by characteristic and suitable carvings.

"The floors are to be of oak, with borders and inlays.

"The fire-places and door-jambs are proposed to be of British marbles, highly polished. The doors, frontispieces, linings of walls, and fittings, will also be of oak. In some of the rooms it is proposed that the wall framing should be carried to the height of six or eight feet, in others that it should be of the full height of the room, and with panels for paintings, portraits, &c.

"The plain surfaces of the walls might be covered with paintings of historical events, and the panels in the wainscoting might contain portraits of celebrated personages in British history.

"The architectural details, both in stone and plaster, might be painted in positive colours, occasionally relieved with gilding: and the armorial bearings, badges, and other heraldic insignia which will enrich the wood-framing, might also be relieved with gold and colour.

THE SPEAKER'S RESIDENCE.

"This residence, being designed for state purposes, might also be adorned with paintings. The style of its finishings, fittings, and decorations will be in accordance with the best examples of the Tudor period.

"Its principal rooms for the purposes of state are as follows:—A reception-room, 34 feet by 23 feet; a library, 34 feet by 23 feet; a dining-room, 45 feet by 24 feet; a drawing-room, 38 feet by 22 feet; and a corridor communication, 8 feet wide, surrounding an internal court.

"With respect to any further encouragement of the fine arts in the exterior of the building, I am not aware of any opportunities that offer, as arrangements have already been made for all the architectonic or conventional sculpture that will be required to adorn the several elevations. Equestrian statues of sovereigns in bronze might, however, be placed with considerable effect in the proposed quadrangle of New Palace-yard, the Speaker's quadrangle, and the royal court.

"I have now described, in general terms, the whole of those portions of the building that might, I think, with propriety and effect be adorned with works of art, and the arts of decoration; but in making the several suggestions which have occurred to me, I should wish it to be understood that I have merely stated my own views on the subject, as far as I have hitherto been able to consider it in its general bearings, and with a view to shew how the objects for which the commission has been established may, if desired, be carried out in the decorations of the new building to their greatest extent. I should not, however, wish to be strictly confined in all cases to the adoption of even my own suggestions, as upon a more mature consideration of the subject in detail hereafter, when the shell of the building is completed, I may be induced to vary and modify some of the views which I entertain at present, and which, I fear, I have but imperfectly communicated in this paper.

AS TO THE COMPLETION OF THE EXTERIOR.

"It has ever been considered by me a great defect in my design for the new Houses of Parliament that it does not comprise a front of sufficient length towards the Abbey, particularly as the building will be better and more generally seen on that side than on the other. This was impossible, owing to the broken outline of the site with which I had to deal. I propose, therefore, that an addition should be made to the building for the purpose of enclosing new Palace-yard, and thus of obtaining the desired front. This addition would be in accordance with the plan of the ancient palace of Westminster, in which the hall was formerly placed in a quadrangle, where, in consequence of its low level, it must have been seen and approached, as it would be, under such circumstances, to the best advantage. The proposed addition would, in my opinion, be of considerable importance as regards the increased accommodation and convenience that it would afford in addition to what is already provided for in the new building as hitherto proposed.

"It has long been a subject of serious complaint and reproach that the present law courts are most inconveniently restricted in their arrangements and accommodation. If it should be determined to retain the courts at Westminster, the proposed addition would admit of the means of removing this cause of complaint; it would also afford accommodation for places of refreshment for the public, for which no provision has been made in the new building, also for royal commissions and other occasional purposes required by Government, and now hired most inconveniently in various parts of the town, at a considerable amount of rental; or for such of the Government offices as may, without inconvenience, be detached from the rest, such as, for instance, the office of woods, or for a record office, and chambers or residences for public officers. It will also afford the opportunity of making an imposing principal entrance to the entire edifice at the angle of Bridge-street and St. Margaret-street—a feature which is at present required, and which would add considerably, not only to the effect of the building, but also to its security in times of public commotion.

"Of the several local improvements suggested, none, in my opinion, is of greater or more pressing importance than that which I have to suggest in respect to Westminster-bridge. The anomaly of the size, outline, and character of that bridge, considered, as it ever must be from its proximity, as an adjunct to the new Houses of Parliament, must have forcibly struck every one who has passed over or under it since the new building has risen into importance; and the steep and dangerous declivities of the roadway, as well as its want of width for the traffic that passes over it, have constantly been a subject of public complaint.

"In order, therefore, to remove these serious objections, I propose that the superstructure of the bridge should be rebuilt upon the old foundations, which are now in course of being repaired and extended under the able superintendence of Messrs. Walker and Burgess. As it is, in my opinion, of the utmost importance, both as regards the effect of the new Houses of Parliament when viewed from the bridge, and the convenience of the public in passing over it, that the roadway should be made on the *lowest possible level*, I would recommend that the form of the arches of the new bridge should be pointed, by which great facility would be afforded for the accomplishing that very important object, namely, by materially reducing the thickness of the crown of the arches within what is considered necessary for arches of the circular form. I am induced also to recommend this form of arch on account of another very important practical advantage which it offers, namely, the elevation of its springing above the level of high-water, by which the water-way through the bridge will be the same at all times of tide; whereas at present the spandrels of the arches offer an impediment to the water-way at high-water nearly equal to 1-20th of its sectional area, occasioning rapid currents, with a considerable fall, and sometimes much danger to craft in passing through the bridge, under the influence of high winds. I consider it also of the greatest importance in an artistic point of view, not only that the bridge should be materially lowered, but that it should be made to accord with the new Houses of Parliament, in order that, both in composition as well as style, the *ensemble* should be harmonious and effective. Upon a rough estimate which I have formed of the cost of the new superstructure, I am satisfied it could be erected for about 120,000*l* beyond the cost it will be necessary to incur to carry out Messrs. Walker and Burgess's design for widening the present bridge to the extent proposed."

Mr. Barry, in continuation observes, it is clearly to be understood he has no desire to interfere with the employment of the engineers who are now engaged in the repair and extension of the foundations, whom he strongly recommends should be left to complete it. He expresses a hope that the commissioners, if they should think fit, will at their earliest convenience make a formal and urgent communication to the government in accordance with the above views he has laid before them, as an early decision would be of great importance, in order that the works in hand may not be proceeded with farther than is necessary to carry out those views if they should be ultimately adopted.

The embankment on both sides of the river, from Vauxhall-bridge to London Bridge, he considers next in importance to the rebuilding of the superstructure of Westminster-bridge. He says:

"As there would, doubtless, be serious objections to a public road upon the embankment on the north side of the river, I confine my observations to the southern side, where, if a road could be obtained, it would afford a succession of fine views of London, and the best situation for views of the principal front of

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